GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:230
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
GLOBAL PANEL TO COUNTER TERRORISM
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have mooted a proposal to set up a global panel of countries most affected by terrorism;

(b) if so, the methods proposed to be adopted to tackle this menace and the countries included;

(c) whether an action plan has also been formulated to counter Pakistan becoming a center for terrorist activities;

(d) if so, the salient features of this plan; and

(e) the time by which this action plan is likely to be finalised?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a)-(b) No

(c)-(e) After the eviction of the Taliban from Afghanistan, Pakistan is today seen as the epicenter of international terrorism. Government have drawn the attention of the international community to Pakistan`s involvement with, support for and providing a safe haven to international terrorism. There is widespread recognition of the dangers posed by such Pakistani involvement. Many countries have called upon Pakistan to dismantle completely the infrastructure of terrorism in that country. Government of India had also taken several measures, particularly following the December 13 terrorist attack on our Parliament to signal the total unacceptability of Pakistan`s sponsorship of cross-border infiltration and terrorism. The President of Pakistan made commitments on January 12, May 27 and June 6, 2002 to end cross-border infiltration, not allow the territory of Pakistan to be used for terrorist activity anywhere in the world, and not allow any organization in Pakistan to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir. Government have also made it clear that there can be no resumption of bilateral dialogue with Pakistan till cross-border infiltration and terrorism have ended.